

One Court of Justice

# **Michigan Supreme Court**

## **2002 Annual Report**

### **Probate Court**

### **Statistical Supplement**

## Introduction

In the Fall of 1997, the State Court Administrative Office commenced a project to revise the trial court caseload reports. The project was initiated partly in response to the creation of the family division of circuit court, but also to bring more uniformity between the three trial court jurisdictions. This new reporting system was implemented January 1, 2002. For highlights of the new system, an explanation as to what the new data means, and an analysis of the data, see the *Michigan Supreme Court 2002 Annual Report*.

Much of the information in this report is due to the hard work and dedication of the trial courts and their information technology departments, the Judicial Information Systems, and staff of the State Court Administrative Office implementing major changes to the caseload reporting system. These changes included not only the revised reporting requirements but the development of a web application for collecting and reporting caseload data. The willingness of the courts to accommodate this new technology, their patience during the refinement of the web application and the verification process, and the expense to their resources associated with implementing this project is much appreciated. Their many efforts have resulted in a much improved caseload reporting system.

The caseload data for 2002 is provided in both a summary format and a detail format. The summary format is organized under categories that had been used in previous years so that comparisons can continue to be made from one year to the next. A legend is provided which explains under which category case type codes appear in the summary. The detail format shows the totals by each case type code.

	Estates, Trusts					Civil, Other		Guardianships, Conservators, Admissions, Mental Commitments							Total
	Det. of Heirs	Estate Admin.	Small Estates	Trust Inter Vivos	Trust Test.	Civil	Other Matters	Adult Cons.	Adult Guardian.	Minor Cons.	Minor Guardian.	Protective Orders	Judicial Adm.	Mental Com.	
Beginning Pending	21	848	301	167	76	561	85	547	1,338	298	1,107	80	4	302	5,735
New Filings	24	19,113	7,401	751	169	374	533	4,156	9,691	2,219	8,013	465	96	13,660	66,665
Reopened	0	907	217	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,131
Total Caseload	45	20,868	7,919	918	245	942	618	4,703	11,029	2,517	9,120	545	100	13,962	73,531
Jury Verdict	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Bench Verdict	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
Uncontested/Dflt/Settled	0	0	0	0	0	87	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	87
Petition Granted	0	18,941	7,338	423	130	0	453	3,008	7,580	2,048	6,349	328	23	6,030	52,651
Order Determining Testacy	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Order Determining Heirs	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18
Petition Denied	0	38	28	5	2	0	1	31	60	4	138	4	2	118	431
Transferred	0	15	0	0	1	2	0	29	50	6	19	0	0	122	244
Dismissed by Party	0	0	0	0	0	51	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	51
Dismissed by Court	0	0	0	0	0	43	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	43
Petition Withdrawn/Dis.	0	142	64	39	4	0	17	732	1,557	65	1,193	24	36	2,137	6,010
Deferred	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,346	4,346
Inactive Status	0	0	0	0	0	184	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	184
Other Disposition	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Case Type Change	0	24	0	0	0	0	0	4	11	3	13	2	0	0	57
Total Dispositions	18	19,166	7,430	467	137	389	471	3,804	9,258	2,126	7,712	358	61	12,753	64,150
Ending Pending	27	1,702	489	451	108	553	147	899	1,771	391	1,408	187	39	1,209	9,381

Estates and Trusts					Wills										
Estate Cases Supervised by the Court During the Year			6,721		Total number of wills filed for safekeeping and delivered after death of testator										12,970
Total Number of Trust Registrations			241		Foreign Birth										
			Jan. 1	New	Closed	Dec. 31	Total number of motions filed with the court to establish delayed registration of foreign birth by court order								486
Total Active Estate and Trust Cases			58,121	20,940	40,234	38,827	Other Mental Commitment Petitions Filed and Disposed								
							Total Petitions Filed for Second Order								552
Guardianships/Conservatorships			Jan. 1	New	Closed	Dec. 31	Total Petitions Filed for Continuing Order								1,630
Total Adults with a Guardian			43,131	8,227	12,363	30,768	Total Number of Supplemental Petitions Presented to the Court for Court Ordered Examination on an Application for Hospitalization and Total Number of Petitions Presented to the Court for Court Ordered Transportation of a Minor								3,373
Total Adults with a Conservator			25,199	4,156	8,192	17,007									
Total Minors with a Guardian			42,556	8,013	10,029	32,527	Total Petitions Granted for Second Order								482
Total Minors with a Conservator			20,797	2,219	4,156	16,641	Total Petitions Denied for Second Order								6
Total Dev. Disabled Persons w/ a Guardian			19,988	1,464	1,540	18,448	Total Petitions Granted for Continuing Order								1,371
							Total Petitions Denied for Continuing Order								5

**Probate Caseload Detail Report - Statewide**

01/01/2002 through 12/31/2002

	Estates, Trusts						Civil/Other		Guardianships, Conservators, Admissions, Mental Commitments										
	DA	DE	DH	PE	TT	TV	CZ	ML	CA	CY	DD	GA	GL	GM	JA	LG	MI	PO	Total
Beginning Pending	153	695	21	301	76	167	561	85	547	298	316	992	30	689	4	418	302	80	5,735
New Filings	665	18,448	24	7,401	169	751	374	533	4,156	2,219	1,464	8,063	164	5,203	96	2,810	13,660	465	66,665
Reopened	181	726	0	217	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,131
<b>Total Caseload</b>	<b>999</b>	<b>19,869</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>7,919</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>918</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>618</b>	<b>4,703</b>	<b>2,517</b>	<b>1,780</b>	<b>9,055</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>5,892</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3,228</b>	<b>13,962</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>73,531</b>
	DA	DE	DH	PE	TT	TV	CZ	ML	CA	CY	DD	GA	GL	GM	JA	LG	MI	PO	Total
Jury Verdict	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Bench Verdict	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
Uncontested/Dflt/Settled	0	0	0	0	0	0	87	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	87
Petition Granted	663	18,278	0	7,338	130	423	0	453	3,008	2,048	1,320	6,112	148	4,051	23	2,298	6,030	328	52,651
Order Determining Testacy	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Order Determining Heirs	0	0	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18
Petition Denied	4	34	0	28	2	5	0	1	31	4	8	51	1	97	2	41	118	4	431
Transferred	0	15	0	0	1	0	2	0	29	6	5	43	2	18	0	1	122	0	244
Dismissed by Party	0	0	0	0	0	0	51	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	51
Dismissed by Court	0	0	0	0	0	0	43	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	43
Petition Withdrawn/Dis.	19	123	0	64	4	39	0	17	732	65	61	1,472	24	811	36	382	2,137	24	6,010
Deferred	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,346	0	4,346
Inactive Status	0	0	0	0	0	0	184	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	184
Other Disposition	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Case Type Change	10	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	3	0	10	1	6	0	7	0	2	57
<b>Total Dispositions</b>	<b>696</b>	<b>18,470</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>7,430</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>3,804</b>	<b>2,126</b>	<b>1,394</b>	<b>7,688</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>4,983</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>2,729</b>	<b>12,753</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>64,150</b>
	DA	DE	DH	PE	TT	TV	CZ	ML	CA	CY	DD	GA	GL	GM	JA	LG	MI	PO	Total
<b>Ending Pending</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>1,399</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>899</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>1,367</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>909</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>499</b>	<b>1,209</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>9,381</b>

**Estates and Trusts**

Estate Cases Supervised by the Court During the Year 6,721

Total Number of Trust Registrations 241

	Jan. 1	New	Closed	Dec. 31
Total Active Estate and Trust Cases	58,121	20,940	40,234	38,827

**Guardianships/Conservatorships**

	Jan. 1	New	Closed	Dec. 31
Total Adults with a Guardian	43,131	8,227	12,363	30,768
Total Adults with a Conservator	25,199	4,156	8,192	17,007
Total Minors with a Guardian	42,556	8,013	10,029	32,527
Total Minors with a Conservator	20,797	2,219	4,156	16,641
Total Dev. Disabled Persons w/ a Guardian	19,988	1,464	1,540	18,448

**Wills**

Total number of wills filed for safekeeping and delivered after death of testator 12,970

**Foreign Birth**

Total number of motions filed with the court to establish delayed registration of foreign birth by court order 486

**Other Mental Commitment Petitions Filed and Disposed**

Total Number of Supplemental Petitions Presented to the Court for Court Ordered Examination on an Application for Hospitalization and Total Number of Petitions Presented to the Court for Court Ordered Transportation of a Minor 7,419

## **Probate Court Caseload Annual Report Legend**

### **Estates, Trusts**

Det. of Heirs – DH  
Estate Admin. – DA, DE  
Small Estates – PE  
Trust Inter Vivos – TV  
Trust Test. – TT

### **Civil, Other**

Civil – CZ  
Other Matters – ML

### **Guardianships, Conservators, Admissions, Mental Commitments**

Adult Cons. – CA  
Adult Guardian. – DD, GA, GL  
Minor Cons. – CY  
Minor Guardian. – GM, LG  
Protective Orders – PO  
Judicial Adm. – JA  
Mental Com. – MI

### **Foreign Birth - BR**

### **Trust Registration - TR**

### **Wills - WS**